

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Official Action dated 05 October 2004 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Prain (US 2726314).

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shero (US 5265318).

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Liu (US 6536379).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Prain as an example of a steam cleaner comprising a container 2 including a chamber 7 formed therein, a steam generator 23 received in said chamber of said container for generating steam, and including at least one spacer 8 extended into said space thereof, to engage with said container, and to form an air passage between said container and said housing, and said housing including a plurality of apertures formed therein wherein said container includes a lower casing and an upper casing disposed in said chamber of said container to receive said steam generator in said lower and said upper casings, wherein said container includes a front portion having a tube provided therein, and having an opening

formed in said tube, said steam generator includes an outlet port received in said opening of said tube.

For claims 4-6, the Examiner further cites Shero as an example of a steam cleaner comprising a container including a chamber formed therein, and including a front portion, a steam generator received in said chamber of said container for generating steam, and a nozzle detachably attached to said front portion of said container for outwardly supplying the steam, said container includes a tube provided in said front portion thereof, and having an opening formed in said tube, said nozzle includes a pipe extended rearwardly therefrom and selectively engageable into said opening of said tube of said container, wherein said tube of said container includes a lock notch formed therein, said pipe of said nozzle includes a quick connect, including a spring blade having a catch extended therefrom and engageable into said lock notch of said tube, and to detachably lock said pipe of said nozzle to said tube of said container.

For claims 7-9, the Examiner further cites Liu as an example of a steam cleaner comprising a container including a chamber formed therein, and including a rear portion, a steam generator received in said chamber of said container for generating steam, and an extension shank detachably attached to said rear portion of said container, wherein said container includes a handle provided in said rear portion thereof, said extension shank is selectively engageable into said handle of said container, wherein said handle of said container includes a hole formed therein, said extension shank includes a spring biased latch engageable into said hole of said handle, and to detachably lock said extension shank to said handle

of said container.

However, actually, in Prain, the boiler 7 includes depending portions 8 secured to brackets 9 with bolts 11, but, the base member 2 and the housing 22 have no lower casing and upper casing disposed therein to receive the boiler 7. In addition, the base member 2 has no apertures formed therein for air circulation purposes.

In Shero, two quick disconnects 14, 16 are attached to two ends of a rectangular cover 10, but fail to disclose any nozzle having a pipe selectively engageable into an opening of a tube of the container, and fail to disclose the pipe of the nozzle including a spring blade having a catch engageable into a lock notch of the tube.

In Liu, the container or housing 1 fail to disclose an extension shank detachably attached to a rear handle of the container with a spring biased latch.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claim 1, the steam cleaner comprises a container (10) including a tube (15) having a lock notch (17), and a nozzle (40) including a spring blade (42) having a catch (43) engageable into the lock notch (17) of the tube (15), and including a lower casing (12) and an upper casing (13) to receive the steam generator (20), and simultaneously, an extension shank (50) including a spring biased latch (51) engageable into a hole (61) of the handle (60), to detachably lock the extension shank to the handle of the container. In addition, the housing (30) includes a number of apertures (34) for air circulating purposes.

The cited arts fail to teach a steam cleaner comprising a nozzle

(40) including a spring blade (42) having a catch (43) engageable into a lock notch (17) of a tube (15) of a container (10), and a lower casing (12) and an upper casing (13) disposed in the container (10) to receive the steam generator (20), and simultaneously, an extension shank (50) including a spring biased latch (51) engageable into a hole (61) of the handle (60), and in addition, the housing (30) includes a number of apertures (34) for air circulating purposes. The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner CAMPBELL are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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